

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A gondola railcar subassembly, comprising:
a cross-bearing member having a top flange with an opening defined therein; and,
a side post connected to the cross-bearing member and disposed through the opening in the top flange.
2. The gondola railcar subassembly of Claim 1, wherein the top flange is integrally formed in the cross-bearing member.
3. The gondola railcar subassembly of Claim 1, wherein a portion of the top flange with the opening is a separate member capable of being attached to the cross-bearing member.
4. The gondola railcar subassembly of Claim 1, wherein the opening is bounded by an edge.
5. The gondola railcar subassembly of Claim 4, wherein the side post is welded to the top flange along the edge.
6. The gondola railcar subassembly of Claim 1, wherein the top flange at least partially surrounds the side post when the post is disposed through the opening.
7. The gondola railcar subassembly of Claim 1, wherein the side post is tapered.
8. The gondola railcar subassembly of Claim 7, wherein the side post supports angled side walls on a gondola

railcar.

9. The gondola railcar subassembly of Claim 1, further comprising:

a reinforcing member disposed inside the post along an area of the post where it is connected to the cross-bearing member.

10. The gondola railcar subassembly of Claim 1, further comprising an auxiliary support member attached to the top flange such that the side post is completely surrounded by the top flange and the auxiliary support member when the side post is disposed through the opening in the flange.

11. A gondola railcar subassembly, comprising:

a cross-bearing member having a top flange and a bottom flange connected by at least one vertical web, the top flange having an opening defined therein; and,

a side post having at least one side wall, the side post connected to the cross-bearing member and disposed through the opening in the top flange such that the at least one side wall abuts with the top flange.

12. The gondola railcar subassembly of Claim 11, wherein the side post abuts with the at least one vertical web.

13. The gondola railcar subassembly of Claim 11, wherein the side post has an end portion.

14. The gondola railcar subassembly of Claim 13, wherein the end portion of the sidepost abuts with the

bottom flange.

15. The gondola railcar subassembly of Claim 11, wherein the top flange is integrally formed in the cross-bearing member.

16. The gondola railcar subassembly of Claim 11, wherein a portion of the top flange having the opening is a separate member capable of being attached to the cross-bearing member.

17. The gondola railcar subassembly of Claim 11, wherein the top flange at least partially surrounds the side post when the side post is disposed through the opening.

18. The gondola railcar subassembly of Claim 11, wherein the side post is tapered.

19. The gondola railcar subassembly of Claim 18, wherein the side post supports angled walls on a railcar.

20. A gondola railcar subassembly, comprising:
a horizontal cross-bearing member having a longitudinal axis, a top flange, and a bottom flange, the top flange and bottom flange connected by at least one vertical web, the cross-bearing member formed at a first end such that the flanges extend beyond the web along the longitudinal axis, the top flange having an opening defined therein that is bordered by an inner edge of the top flange; and,
a side post having a side wall and an end portion,

the side post disposed through the opening in the top flange of the beam such that the side wall abuts with the inner edge of the top flange, abuts with the web, and an end portion of the side post abuts with the bottom flange.

21. A railroad gondola car, comprising:

a subframe assembly including a plurality of horizontal cross-bearing members having an upper flange, a lower flange and a vertical web disposed between the flanges;

a side structure having a side sheet having inner and outer surfaces and a plurality of vertical side posts disposed adjacent to the side sheets; and,

at least one of the side posts connected to the cross-bearing member and disposed through an opening in the upper flange of the cross-bearing member such that the post abuts with the opening and the vertical web, the side post having an end portion that abuts with the lower flange of the cross-bearing member.

22. The railroad gondola car of Claim 21, further comprising a reinforcing member disposed inside the side posts and extending from the underframe to the side structure.

23. The railroad gondola car of Claim 21, wherein the top flange is integrally formed in the cross-bearing member.

24. The railroad gondola car of Claim 21, wherein a portion of the top flange having an opening is a separate member capable of being attached to the cross-

bearing member.

25. The railroad gondola car of Claim 21, wherein the side posts are disposed adjacent to an outer surface of the side sheets.

26. The railroad gondola car of Claim 21, wherein the side posts are disposed adjacent to an inner surface of the side sheets.

27. The railroad gondola car of Claim 21, wherein the side posts are tapered.

28. The railroad gondola car of Claim 27, wherein the side post supports angled side walls.